less to pretend to affect the welfare of the blacks in this country, unless the chains of prejudice are broken. It is of no use say with the mouth we are friends of the slave and not try to encourage and assist the free colored people in raising themselves. Here is sir! the first efforts of the colored man in this country of the kind, viz. the paper published, printed and edited by colored persons in Massachusetts. Shall this be defeated But it is contended the individual who started the enterprise has not taken it up from principle. he dont intend what he pretends. Base misrepresentations false accusations! — I was not aware that so many hypocrites existed in the Anti slavery ranks According to what I have seen of the conduct of some, a black man would be as unsafe in their hands as in those of southern slaveholders I have found a few true to the righteous cause, and those were practical abolitionists as well as abolitionists by profession. I should like to become acquainted with some of the stories in circulation.

Thine in haste

R. F. Robest.

Ms.A.21.8.55

PHELPS MSS.

Boston June 19, 1838

Rev A. A. Phelps-

Dear Sir - At 25, Cornhill, I found a note addressed to myself, which on opening I was surprised to learn that you felt much dissatisfied with the recommendation you furnished- the impression I got showed it was undeserving. I return it as requested. But as it respects the facts alluded to, I am aware there has been and now is, a combined effort on the part of certain professed abolitionists to muzzle, exterminate and put down the efforts of certain colored individuals effecting the welfare of their colored brethren. The truth is respecting myself, my whole soul is engaged in the cause of humanity. I am for improvement among this class of people, mental and physical. The arts and sciences have never been introduced to any extent among us- therefore they are of the utmost importance. If anti Slavery men will not subscribe to the advancement of these principles, but rail out and protest against them when took up by those who have adarkar skin, why we will go to the heathen. The principle ground on which the anti-slavery cause is said to be founded (and boastings are not a few) are the elevation of the free colored people here. Now it is altogether use-